

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CINCEUR
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CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

S E C R E T ANKARA 2934

NAPLES ALSO FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AWACS, NATO, CENTO, IR, TU
SUBJECT: NATO AWACS: TURKISH QUERIES

REF: STATE 90645 (DTG 080126Z APR 78)(NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY POLITICAL/MILITARY OFFICER CONVEYED DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSES ON TURKISH AWACS QUERIES TO FOREIGN MINISTRY NATO DEPARTMENT OFFICER GUN GUR ON APRIL 13. GUR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON AWACS TO GOT, AND PARTICULARLY FOR INDICATION (ANSWER D) THAT USG EXPECTS A FORWARD OPERATING BASE (FOB) TO BE ESTABLISHED IN TURKEY.

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2. ENSUING DISCUSSION SURFACED THREE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:
A. IN THE EVENT OF INCREASED TENSION IN ANY AREA ALONG THE ALLIANCE "FRONTLINE", WOULD THE USG BE ABLE TO DEPLOY ITS OWN AWACS AIRCRAFT TO THE THREATENED REGION IN ORDER TO AUGMENT COVERAGE BY THE SIXTEEN-PLANE NATO FORCE?
GUR SAID THAT TURKISH MILITARY EXPERTS DOUBT THAT A SIXTEEN

PLANE FORCE COULD SATISFACTORILY COVER THE NATO REGION IN A TIME OF ESCALATING TENSION. ALTHOUGH SACEUR HAS STATED THAT A SIXTEEN-PLANE FORCE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE NORMAL OPERATIONAL SURVEILLANCE, THE TURKS TEND TO BELIEVE THAT ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT WOULD BE REQUIRED IN TIMES OF CRISIS SO THAT NO AREA, ESPECIALLY THE FLANKS, WOULD BE LEFT "EXPOSED."

B. ALLOWING FOR THE FACT THAT AN AWACS AIRCRAFT WOULD BE ABLE TO "SEE" ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS AND THERE MAY BE SOME OVERLAPPING OF ORBITS OF AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM ADJACENT FOB'S, WILL GROUND STATIONS IN NATIONAL TERRITORIES RECEIVE DOWN-TELL DATA FROM ALL AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN A GIVEN REGION OR WILL THEY TRANSMIT DATA ONLY TO GROUND STATIONS IN COUNTRIES WHERE THE HOME FOB IS LOCATED? GUR HYPOTHESIZED THAT GROUND STATIONS IN TURKEY MIGHT BE DENIED DATA FROM AN AWACS AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM AN ADJACENT AREA, SUCH AS GREECE, AND THAT THE AIRCRAFT'S COMPUTERS MIGHT BE PROGRAMMED TO TRANSMIT DATA ONLY TO GROUND STATIONS WITHIN GREECE OR WITHIN THE GREEK FIR IN THE AEGEAN. GUR FRANKLY SAID THAT, TO ASSURE CONTINUED STRONG TURKISH SUPPORT FOR AWACS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT AWACS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE NADGE SYSTEM IN THAT TURKEY WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE DATA FROM ALL AWACS AIRCRAFT IN THE REGION AND THAT THE GREEKS COULD NOT CONTROL DISSEMINATION OF DATA COVERING ADJACENT BORDER AREAS, IRRESPECTIVE OF TERRITORIAL WATER AND FIR CLAIMS.

C. WHAT REAL-TIME AND ANALYZED DATA WOULD STATIONS IN SECRET

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TURKEY RECEIVE FROM AWACS OPERATIONS FARTHER WEST IN EUROPE, FOR EXAMPLE FROM ITALY, SOUTHERN GERMANY, ETC.? GUR SAID IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE TURKISH MILITARY SEES A REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY WARNING AND FLIGHT ANALYSIS INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOUTHERN FLANK AND EVEN CENTRAL EUROPEAN AREAS. THE MILITARY EXPERTS, HE SAID, BELIEVE THAT TURKISH AWACS OPERATIONS IN EUROPE AND THAT EUROPE-WIDE DATA AND ANALYSIS SHOULD NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE SOLELY TO THE MAIN OPERATING BASE IN GERMANY AND SACEUR HEADQUARTERS.

3. AT END OF FOREGOING DISCUSSION, GUR OPINED THAT AWACS COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN TURKISH-IRANIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS UNDER THE CENTO UMBRELLA. GUR SAID THAT GOT MILITARY PLANNERS HOPE TO LINK UP NATO AWACS COVERAGE OF TURKEY WITH IRANIAN AWACS COVERAGE OF THE TRANSCAUCASUS REGION. NOTING THAT THE CONCLUSION UNDER CENTO AUSPICES OF A NATO-IRANIAN AIR DEFENSE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN BLOCKED BY THE PAKISTANIS WHO DO NOT FAVOR EXPANDED NATO-CENTO COLLABORATION, GUR SAID THAT THE GOT HOPES THAT PAK ATTITUDES TOWARD CENTO WILL IMPROVE SO THAT COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS SUCH AS AIR DEFENSE DATA EXCHANGE AND JOINT AWACS OPERATIONS WILL BE POSSIBLE. IN THIS CONNECTION, GUR SAID

THAT THE PAKISTANIS RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE AIR DEFENSE AGREEMENT DURING THE VISIT OF PAK FOREIGN MINISTER AGA SHAHI TO ANKARA EARLIER THIS MONTH AND THAT THE PAKS STILL WERE DISINCLINED ON POLITICAL GROUNDS TO EXPAND NATO-CENTO LINKS AND TO AGREE TO THE NATO-IRANIAN DATA EXCHANGE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS OF DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES ON ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS POSED BY GUR PER PARA 2 ABOVE. ALSO, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION AS TO POSSIBLE INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN NATO AND IRANIAN AWACS SYSTEMS.

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